

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2143-MC-FFS

DATE: July 15, 2020

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Avastin® Billing for Use in Ophthalmology

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2020

Avastin® (bevacizumab) was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat different types of cancer. Avastin® intravitreal eye injections are also used by an Ophthalmologist for the treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic eye disease and other problems of the retina. Its use to treat eye disease is considered an “off-label” use. The FDA allows “off label” drug use if doctors are well informed about the product and studies prove the drug is helpful.

Ophthalmological use of Avastin® does not have an assigned J-code. Iowa Medicaid requires the following when submitting a claim for this use to ensure accurate reimbursement:

- HCPCS code J3590 (Unclassified Biologics),
- HCPCS Units of:
 - 1 eye at 1.25 mg (0.05 mls) = 1 HCPCS unit, or
 - both eyes at 1.25 mg (0.05 mls) EACH = 2 HCPCS units, and
- National Drug Code (NDC) of the product administered.

A prior authorization (PA) for this use is not required.

If you have questions, please contact the appropriate MCO or the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.